

investigation field, and soon after was promoted to Sergeant within the Department. Richard's leadership did not end there, and he continued to rise through the ranks as Lieutenant, Internal Affairs Commander, and eventually, Chief of Police in 2019.

No matter the role, our community has seen Richard be there to ensure each and every person feels safe and respected. His work with Temple Sinai specifically goes to show that, for him, his work is more than a job—it is about public service, and building a community we can continue to be proud of. Not only has he served his neighbors in times of emergency, but he took extra time to ensure the synagogue had proper security systems in place, and train community members on how they can stay safe in a crisis. While fulfilling all the day-to-day duties of his job, it is certainly also true that Richard has become a pillar of trust and leadership to those around him.

As we see a rise of antisemitic incidents across the country, we are collectively reminded that it is on us to continue pushing back against harmful bigotry that seeks to divide us and incite violence. I hope more people will follow in Richard's footsteps and work together to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome in our communities.

We are grateful to Richard for his dedication to public safety and for working to create a society that looks out for one another, regardless of our differences. I wish him all the best as he is deservedly honored by Temple Sinai for his outstanding contributions to New Jersey's 3rd District.

HONORING THOSE FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE MARINE BARRACKS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON ON OCTOBER 23, 1983

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those service members who died on October 23, 1983 when the Marine barracks was blown up in Beirut, Lebanon by two terrorists from Hezbollah.

There were 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers who died on that ill-fated day.

A few minutes later in a coordinated attack, another suicide bomber blew up the French barracks just a few blocks away killing 58 French paratroopers.

In the summer of 1983, the Reagan Administration approved the deployment of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) from the world-renowned Camp Lejeune, which is in my congressional district.

This deployment was at the request of the Lebanese government, and the battalion landing team (BLT) was First Battalion Eighth Marines, now known as "The Beirut Battalion".

Their mission was a peacekeeping one. The Beirut Memorial in Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, North Carolina has this sentence forever etched in stone,

"They came in peace".

They were there to help bring peace to the war-torn city of Beirut, Lebanon.

These American service members and the French paratroopers paid the ultimate sacrifice for their beloved nations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of these noble men. Many who still live in my congressional district today.

God bless them for keeping the faith and enduring the loss of their loved ones. May they never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include in the RECORD the poem on the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, North Carolina as it is fitting to do so on this solemn occasion.

"THE OTHER WALL" BY R.A. GANNON

It does not stand in Washington
By others of its kind
In prominence and dignity
With mission clear defined.
It does not list the men who died
That tyranny should cease
But speaks in silent eloquence
Of those who came in peace.
This Other Wall is solemn white
And cut in simple lines
And it nestles in the splendor
Of the Carolina pines
And on this wall there are the names
Of men who once had gone
In friendship's name to offer aid
To Beirut, Lebanon
They did not go as conquerors
To bring a nation down
Or for honor or for glory
Or for praises or renown.
When they landed on that foreign shore
Their only thought in mind
Was the safety of its people
And the good of all mankind
Though they offered only friendship
And freedom's holy breath
They were met with scorn and mockery
And violence and death
So the story of their glory
Is not of battles fought
But of their love of freedom
Which was so dearly bought
And their wall shall stand forever
So long as freedom shines
On the splendor and the glory
Of the Carolina pines.

God bless them and their outstanding families. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SO SO DEF RECORDS AND ITS FOUNDER JERMAINE DUPRI

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the coming 30th anniversary of So So Def Records and its founder, Jermaine Dupri. On October 12, 1993, So So Def released Hummin Comin' at 'Cha by Xscape, officially debuting one of Hip Hop's greatest producers.

As we know, Atlanta Influences Everything, especially music. Originally from Atlanta's southside, Grammy Award-winning artist, songwriter, and producer Jermaine Dupri founded So So Def Records in 1993. Over the past 30 years, So So Def has welcomed people to Atlanta, and become one of the music industry's most successful and influential labels. Serving as the home for artists like Da Brat, Xscape, Bow Wow, Anthony Hamilton and Jagged Edge, So So Def Records have dominated the airways with a young and refreshing sound.

Through his work at So So Def Records, Dupri has produced and shaped the sound of modern hip-hop and R&B music of the 2000's. His talent and dedication have earned him highly coveted awards and accolades, including induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018.

The party continues with So So Def's successes beyond music. Dupri's infectious work ethic built a culture of innovation and creativity within the label and the city of Atlanta. His tireless work to develop, mentor, and introduce new talent pushed the boundaries of what was possible in the music industry. Dupri and So So Def's musicians led the charge behind a cultural shift in music, showing the country Atlanta's deep love and appreciation for Hip-Hop—and that the South has something to say.

Beyond his work at So So Def, Dupri has also been a dedicated philanthropist, using his platform to support numerous charitable organizations and causes. He has been known for the use of his talent and resources to spread a wealth of knowledge to not only upcoming artists, but also his community and supporters at large. A longtime advocate for youth empowerment, Dupri has supported Boys and Girls Clubs of America and City of Hope, creating opportunities and providing resources to ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive, no matter your race, bank account, or ZIP Code. He has also stood as a longtime advocate for social change in the Black community, working closely with the Social Change Fund, a charitable initiative aimed at providing support and solutions for problems that have continued to affect the Black community. Dupri's philosophy of bridging gaps of service has become his calling card far past his contributions to music.

As a beloved figure in his hometown of College Park, he has been a cornerstone in shaping the foundation of the city's cultural landscape. He has been a leader and advocate for Atlanta's music scene and has helped to put the city on the map as a cultural mecca for hip-hop, R&B, and all things entertainment. Dupri has spearheaded the growth and development of modern Black entertainment and a generation of talented and influential musicians. His dedication and investment into our city and our people are a testament to his character and his commitment to raising a community up with him.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of So So Def Records, I would like to take a moment to recognize Jermaine Dupri for his contributions to the music industry and his commitment to Atlanta. His perseverance and imagination have shaped the last 30 years of hip hop, and we know there's at least 30 more years to keep building his legacy. On behalf of the people of Atlanta, we say . . . Thank You to Jermaine Dupri.

RECOGNIZING RILEY GAINES WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor exceptional female leaders throughout

our Nation who have recently been recognized as "Christian Women of Distinction" by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Riley Gaines, is a brave spokeswoman for fairness in women's sports. Riley is no stranger to me or my team—a recent graduate from the University of Kentucky and 12-time NCAA All-American swimmer, she gained recognition after tying against Lia Thomas at the NCAA championships. She began the Riley Gaines Center, which has since led a movement to protect and support women's sports. To many athletes, her work is an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Riley, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2023

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month 2023. Each year from September 15th to October 15th, Americans across the country recognize and celebrate the history and culture of those individuals whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This observance was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The month encapsulates celebrations of independence for many Latin American countries. September 15th is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th.

This year on October 3rd, Gwinnett County will celebrate a Heritage Night Celebration in observance of Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the county. As the representative for Georgia's most diverse and fastest-growing congressional district, it is my privilege to uplift the Latino community and celebrate their contributions to this district, the Nation, and the world.

In every facet of our daily lives, Latino leaders have made an indelible mark on this country and created a more perfect union for us all. These contributions take form in creative talents, culinary offerings, and civic development and leadership. Our community is well represented by artists, business owners, and elected officials whose Hispanic heritage enhances the diversity of our community and enriches the moral fiber of our nation. I am proud of their countless contributions to our country's story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that these Americans play in our society and in Georgia's Seventh Congressional District in particular.

While we continue to celebrate the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we celebrate the power and pride of our Latino community in Georgia. As a representative of our state, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day. On behalf of myself, the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HENRY CHESTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Henry Lewis Chester of Fort Worth, Texas, who passed away on August 12, 2023.

Mr. Chester was born on April 9, 1948, in Los Angeles, California to Henry Lewis Chester, Sr. and Robbie Lenora Chester. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Army Band during the Vietnam War. After returning home, Mr. Chester attended California State University, Dominguez Hills and later received two master's degrees in special education and rehabilitation counseling.

In 2007, Mr. Chester moved to the Lone Star State and worked as a counselor for the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center in Dallas, Texas. He married his wife Darlene, and together, they raised four amazing children and have many more grandchildren. Mr. Chester was very passionate about music, and he often worked as a substitute teacher in the music department at H.F. Stevens Middle School in Crowley, Texas. He also helped supervise band competitions and participated in numerous city bands in the Fort Worth metroplex during his free time.

Furthermore, Mr. Chester was a devoted man of faith. He regularly attended the Greater Saint Stephen First Church and was also a member of the Carter Metropolitan CME Church in Fort Worth. In these churches, Mr. Chester sang as part of a mass choir. He also frequently volunteered at his local food pantries to assist those in need. Those who knew Mr. Chester can attest to his care for family and community, and his loved ones truly cherished every moment with him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Mr. Chester's remarkable life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING STANLEY "STAN" AUSTIN RANSOM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley "Stan" Ransom, an esteemed musician and historian.

Stan was born in Winsted, Connecticut on January 24, 1928. After graduating from high school in 1945, he attended Yale University on a full scholarship. Stan enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946, achieving the rank of Corporal while serving in Japan. After his military service, Stan returned to Yale to complete his BA in Intellectual History, English, and Sociology. Stan earned his Masters Degree in Library Services from Columbia University in 1953 and worked for the New York Public Research Library.

In 1956, Stan began working for the Huntington Public Library, first as Assistant Director and later as Director. In 1974, he was named Director of the Clinton-Essex-Library System in Plattsburgh, a position he held for seventeen years. Stan retired briefly before serving as the Director of the Plattsburgh Public Library from 2007 to 2012, for which he secured grant funding to upgrade computers and created a program to teach computer skills to local residents.

Stan has nurtured a love of professional folk singing and storytelling. Developing his talents as a folk singer, known as "The Connecticut Peddler," he recorded twelve albums of folk music from around New York State. Stan has performed at public libraries, children's centers, local nursing homes, and assisted living facilities across the North Country.

Stan's historical research uncovered the works of an obscure slave and poet named Jupiter Hammon, who wrote poems in the 1700's in the Huntington area. Stan published a book of Hammon's poetry in 1970, earning him an Award of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. Stan established October 17th, Hammon's birthday, as "Black Poetry Day" in 1970, a holiday officially recognized by New York State in 2022.

Stan is an active member of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, Sons of the American Revolution, Toastmasters Club, and serves as the Secretary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. He and his wife Chris have been integral members of the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee since 2000, providing 19th-century children's games for the annual Commemoration. Stan also performs music from the early 19th century throughout the Celebration weekend.

Stan has received countless awards recognizing his contributions to brotherhood, libraries, history, intellectual freedom, and folklore. In July 2019, he was honored by the Clinton County Senior Center in their "Six Over Seventy" Award series.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I wish to recognize Stanley Ransom for his lifetime of service to this Nation, to the preservation of history, and to the arts.